

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 IOE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

NEA-10 OIC-02 /081 W

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P R 091558Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2752

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5770

LAB DEPT FOR HOROWITZ

STATE FOR S/IL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, NO

SUBJECT: ILO GOVERNING BODY (BG) - NORWEGIAN VIEW

REFS: (A) GENEVA 8303 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 263977 (NOTAL),
(C) OSLO 5429 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NORWEGIANS, WHO ARE CHAIRING GROUP OF FOUR WEST EUROPEAN
GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ILO WORKING PARTY (WP) ON
STRUCTURE, MET WITH EMBOFF TO STRESS CONCERN THEY HAVE ABOUT ILO
STRUCTURE ISSUE. THEY OUTLINED MAIN ELEMENTS OF ASIAN PROPOSAL
WHICH HAS ACHIEVED WIDE MEASURE AGREEMENT IN WP, URGING THAT
WESTERN NATIONS GIVE PROPOSAL POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION AT UPCOMING
WP MEETING BEGINNING LATE NOV. NORWEGIANS GAVE US ADVANCE COPY
OF THEIR WORKING PAPER ON ISSUE WHICH WE ARE SENDING TO GENEVA
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FOR PFEIFFER AND LABOR DEPT FOR HOROWITZ. END SUMMARY

1. AT REQUEST MFA OFFICIALS EMB MET NOV 3 WITH HALDOR HELDAL OF GON SOCIAL MINISTRY TO DISCUSS NORWEGIAN VIEWS ON CURRENT QUESTIONS BEFORE ILO WP ON STRUCTURE. ISSUES ARE EXPECTED TO COME BEFORE ILO GOVERNING BODY (GB) AT SESSION OPENING NOV 16 (REF B AND C). SOCIAL MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BJORN UTHEIM AND MFA OFFICER TORE TORONG JOINED HELDAL FOR MEETING.

2. HELDAL SAID GON WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ILO STRUCTURE QUESTION, THAT IF UNRESOLVED IT COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DC AND LOC COUNTRIES. NORWEGIANS THOUGHT IT ESSENTIAL SUCH AN OUTCOME SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

3. HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE ASIAN PROPOSAL BEFORE WG AND STATED NORWAY FELT IT OFFERED MOST PROMISING POSSIBILITY FOR REACHING SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON THE STRUCTURE ISSUE.

4. FEATURES OF ASIAN PLAN WHICH HELDAL SAID HE FELT COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR PRODUCTIVE WP DISCUSSIONS INCLUDE (A) MAKING ALL GB SEATS ELECTIVE; (B) ELIMINATING DISTINCTION BETWEEN REGULAR AND DEPUTY SEATS; (C) DISTRIBUTING 40 GOVT. SEATS DISTRIBUTED AMONG FIVE REGIONS ON BASIS OF POPULATION, CONTRIBUTION TO ILO BUDGET; AND (D) POSSIBLE ELECTION ODMOST INDUSTRIALIZED STATE IN REGION TO GB.

5. HELDAL STATED HE BELIEVES IF OPPORTUNITY IS LOST IN UPCOMING WP IT WILL MAKE CERTAIN IMEC-GROUP OF 77 CONFRONTATION ON ISSUE OF STRUCTURE. HE SAID NORWEGIAN VIEW WAS THAT THE LONGER THE DELAY IN BEGINNING STRUCTURAL REFORM PROCESS, THE STRONGER WILL BE THE TENDENCY TO ESTABLISH NON-ILO REGIONAL LABOR GROUPINGS LIKE RECENTLY FORMED ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION.

6. HELDAL ADDED THAT IF WESTERN COUNTRIES WANT TO MAINTAIN ILO AS UNIVERSAL, TRIPARTITE ORGANIZATION WITH ITS PRESENT AREA OF COMPETENCE, SOME CONCESSIONS ARE NECESSARY. THE ASIAN PROPOSAL, WHICH, ACCORDING TO HELDAL, HAS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT AMONG MODERATES IN GROUP OF 77, CONTAINS A BALANCE OF CONCESSIONS BY AND GUARANTEES FOR IMEC COUNTRIES, HE THOUGHT, AND THEREFORE WOULD SERVE AS A REASONABLE BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN WP. GROUP OF 77 WILL BE PUSHING FOR ACTION IN NOV-DEC WP MEETING, HELDAL BELIEVES. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. HELDAL SAID THAT ABOVE POSITION HAD NOT AS YET BEEN CLEARED BY MFA, BUT HE IMPLIED THAT INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ILO WOULD SOON APPROVE IT. HELDAL DID NOT REQUEST ANY US REACTION TO NORWEGIAN VIEW, NOR DID HE MAKE DIRECT APPEAL FOR SUPPORT. HE ADDED THAT SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF WP, HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS GENERAL APPROACH WITH US DELS (PERSONS AND HOROWITZ). EMBOFF AGREED TO ADVISE HOROWITZ OF NORWEGIAN VIEWS, AND

THEY AGREED TO POUCH TO US OFFICIALS COPY OF PAPER HELDAL HAD PREPARED, ENTITLED "NOTE ON OPTIONS BEFORE THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS AT THE MEETING OF THE ILO WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE IN NOV-DEC 1976." COPIES SENT TO GENEVA FOR PFEIFFER AND LABOR DEPT FOR HOROWITZ.

8. EMBOFF ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF ISRAELI RESOLUTION WITH HELDAL, BUT AGAIN HEARD (AS REPORTED REF C) THAT MATTER STILL TO BE DISCUSSED BY INTER-MINISTERIAL ILO COMMITTEE. NO OTHER MATTERS BEFORE COMING GB MEETING WERE DISCUSSED AT MEETING.
ANDERS

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